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ISSUE (QUARTER)

June 2009

Release Date

12 June 2009

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

What's New



WHAT'S NEW

THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT INDEX (AEDI)

What?

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a population measure of how young children are developing in different Australian communities. The index is based on the Canadian Early Development Instrument and measures five developmental domains:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills
- communication and general knowledge

The primary output of the AEDI national implementation project will be community profiles of early childhood development measured against the five developmental domains. The profiles will be published online at community, state/territory and national levels by the end of 2009.

Who?

The index is endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) as a national progress measure of early childhood development and the Federal Government has provided funding for nation-wide implementation.

When?

The index will be completed in Tasmanian schools and across Australia between May - July 2009.

Why?

The AEDI delivers essential information about early childhood development and provides insights into how children's community and social environments affects their outcomes. This information enables communities and governments to pinpoint the types of services, resources and supports young children and their families need to give children the best possible start in life, and to evaluate community efforts to improve the life chances for Australia's children.

How?

The AEDI is derived from a teacher-completed checklist. All teachers of children in their first year of formal full-time schooling will be asked to complete the AEDI checklist.

The AEDI will produce a rich body of data about Tasmanian children, with significant

potential for further analysis and research. More information is available from the AEDI website www.aedi.org.au or from the Tasmanian AEDI coordinator, Mrs Sally Giacon by phone: (03) 6233 7795 or by email: aedi@education.tas.gov.au.

KIDS COME FIRST BLUEPRINT: A WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

The Kids Come First Blueprint is a project to develop an outcomes-based framework for children. Initiated by the Tasmanian Government, it contains key indicators of health, wellbeing, safety, development and learning. These indicators reflect the influences of services available for children, families, and communities. The project will provide the Government with a comprehensive way of monitoring how Tasmania's children and young people (from birth to 18 years) are faring. It will also more accurately identify where additional action and support are needed.

Key outcomes data and community profiles will be used to create a map of local areas, demonstrating their relative strengths and weaknesses and the contributing factors to these. The intended outcome of the project is improved health, wellbeing and educational outcomes for all Tasmanian children from birth to eighteen years, by more efficient targeting of services and resources. Recommendations on improving access, equity, and targeting of services to areas of need, will then be delivered to government. The implementation of the recommendations will contribute to improved social inclusion outcomes, and aid the development of innovative models of service delivery.

The project will be completed by the end of June 2009. It builds on the work of The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation which has been developing similar indicators for children 0-5 years since June 2007. The project has also drawn on the experience of Victoria, and acknowledges the generous support of the Victorian Office for Children (now the Department of Education and Early Child Development).

Tasmanian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey

In developing the outcomes framework for the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation and Kids Come First, it became clear that there were no data sources for several critical indicators, including many relating to social inclusion. A computer assisted telephone survey of 1,200 households with children under 12 years has been designed to cover these gaps. The survey will be conducted during March 2009, and completed by Easter 2009.

For further information on either the Kids Come First Blueprint or the Tasmanian Child and Health Wellbeing Survey, please phone Dr Sue Jenkins, Department Health and Human Services - Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services, Hobart, on (03) 6233 6244.

A PICTURE OF THE NATION

A Picture of the Nation: the Statistician's Report on the 2006 Census (cat. no. 2070.0) examines contemporary issues in Australian society with the sort of depth only made possible by the analysis of a centuries worth of population census figures.

The report looks at Australian society through two different filters - generational groups (birth cohorts such as Baby Boomers, Generation X and Y or the iGeneration) and life-cycle groups (people in similar situations such as one parent families, lone persons, families with and without children) - to discover the changes over time.

Subjects covered in The Statistician's Report include family and living arrangements, skills shortages, cultural diversity, work, economic resources and housing. Each chapter contains a broad overview and a number of feature articles about specific social issues.

Did you know?:

- Both South Australia and Tasmania experienced low rates of growth in the 25 years to 2006. Losses due to interstate migration, primarily of young people, have resulted in older populations with lower proportions of people of child-bearing age and subsequent low levels of natural increase.
- Of the 20 largest Urban Centres in Australia, Hobart experienced the lowest annual growth rate (0.2%) from 1996 to 2006.
- South Australia and Tasmania had the highest proportions of older people aged 65 years and over, 15.1% and 14.6% respectively.
- Of small Urban Centres in Tasmania, Evandale and Deloraine had the highest rates of volunteering at 30.8% and 28.4% respectively.
- Of large Urban Centres in Tasmania, Kingston-Blackmans Bay and Hobart had the highest rates of volunteering at 25.2% and 21.4% respectively.
- In Tasmania 70.5% of students attend government schools, 17.6% attend Catholic schools, and 11.9% attend other non-government schools.
- The Lyell region in south-western Tasmania had one of the largest declines in labour force participation for males (from 90% to 72%). In Lyell, population ageing has resulted in a 22% decline in the number of men aged 15-64 from 1996 to 2006.
- In 2006, Tasmania had the lowest proportion of higher income workers (23%) and the highest proportion of lower income workers (24%) of all the states and territories.
- There were 216, 700 private dwellings in Tasmania in 2006, a 28.3% increase from 1986-2006.

The report can be downloaded free of charge from the ABS website. Alternatively you can order a hardcopy by phone, fax, email, or mail order. The help pages on the ABS website provide details on how to purchase and ABS product offline.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

We are pleased to announce that Australian Social Trends, a premier publication of the ABS will now be available electronically on a quarterly basis from the ABS website. This publication, formerly released on an annual basis, presents statistical analysis and commentary on a wide range of current social issues. Articles are organised into eight chapters, representing the following broad areas of interest:

- population;
- family and community;
- health;
- education and training;
- work;
- economic resources;
- housing;
- and a chapter of articles covering other areas of social concern.

Each chapter is supported by a set of summary tables including key social indicators which provide an overview of social change over the past decade, as well as how social conditions differ across Australian states and territories. A set of international tables also compares

Australia with 17 other nations.

Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0) will next be released Wednesday 25 March 2009.

How Can We Help



HOW CAN WE HELP

HANDY TIPS FOR FINDING INFORMATION ON THE ABS WEBSITE

So you've found a publication that contains the information you're after and you know it is released regularly. Rather than having to keep track of the release dates, wouldn't it be easier to receive an email notification each time the publication is released?

All you need to do is click on the email notification icon that appears at the top of the page within the publication you would like to subscribe to. This automatically takes you to the Email Notification subscription service. The catalogue number of the publication will automatically be entered into the form. From there just follow the instructions provided.

GENERAL STATISTICAL ENQUIRIES

We can help you to make a more informed decision...

Our consultants are available to discuss your information needs, and assist you to obtain the data which will best meet your requirements.

A range of published data is available free of charge on our website and more detailed data can be tailored to your requirements as part of our priced information consultancy service. Contact our consultants who will discuss your needs in detail and provide you with an obligation free quote.

Phone: 1300 135 070 (between 8.30am-5.00pm EST)

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

Fax: 1300 135 211

Post: Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney, 2001

Online Enquiry Form

To find out more about how we can customise data tailored to meet your needs check out our [Information Consultancy Services](#) brochure online.

STATISTICAL TRAINING

Our training programs are conducted by ABS staff with expertise in designing questionnaires, analysing data and managing the survey process. The courses teach practical skills by involving participants in individual and group exercises. In addition, courses can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your organisation. We also hold regular seminars which may focus on statistical developments, publications, trends or issues. Please contact us to register your interest in future courses at: tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Recent Releases



RECENT RELEASES

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

10/03/2009 Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia, Jan 2009 (cat. no. 7307.0)

This publication contains information on stocks, use and commitments of wheat grain in Australia. Data is obtained from surveys of grain handlers' stocks, domestic wheat grain usage and stocks, and wheat grain export commitments. Administrative trade data relating to wheat grain exports is also included. Some state breakdowns and time series data are presented, as are datacubes of all tables in the publication.

02/03/2009 Business Indicators, Australia, Dec 2008 (cat. no. 5676.0)

Contains quarterly estimates of profits, income from the sale of goods and services, wages and salaries, and the book value of inventories. These data are classified by broad industry, and original, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates are included for Australia, in current price terms. Volume measures are published for sales and inventories. State/territory data will also be included for sales, and wages and salaries, in current price terms.

25/02/2009 Criminal Courts, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 4513.0)

Provides nationally comparable data showing the number of defendants dealt with by the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate), Magistrates' and Children's criminal courts. Includes details on the characteristics of defendants (such as age and sex), and outcomes associated with adjudicated defendants (including sentence type) by the type of principal offence committed. Information is presented for each state and territory (including the aggregate total for Australia) and for each of the three court levels.

24/02/2009 Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation; State Tables, Apr to Jul 2007 (cat. no. 6361.0.55.003)

Presents first results from the Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation by selected socio-demographic characteristics. Contains information about people's employment arrangements such as type of worker (e.g. employees, owner managers); working patterns; extra paid and unpaid hours worked; and people's work preferences. Includes information about the caring responsibilities that people have, and

how people balance their work with their caring responsibilities Also presents information on whether people are contributing to superannuation, and the characteristics of people with different types of superannuation coverage.

24/02/2009 Underemployed Workers, Sep 2008 (cat. no. 6265.0)

Provides information on visible underemployment. Persons who worked less than 35 hours in the week prior to the survey who would have preferred to work more hours were asked about whether they were looking for work with more hours, available to start work with more hours, and their experience in looking for work with more hours. Other information includes, the duration of the current period of insufficient work, and the number of extra hours preferred. Estimates can be cross-classified by labour force demographics such as State, sex, age, marital status and birthplace.

18/02/2009 Persons With Main Source of Income From Own Unincorporated Business, Estimates for Small Areas - Datacubes 2004-05 to 2005-06 (cat. no. 6225.0.55.001)

These data are estimates of the number of persons whose main or principal source of income comes from their Own unincorporated business(es) for the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The data includes estimates of:

- the number of persons by sex;
- the income those persons received from Own unincorporated business(es); and
- the total income those persons received from all sources.

These data are intended to provide insight about the economy of regions, and in particular regional income. The data are available for various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) such as Statistical Local Areas (SLA), Local Government Areas (LGA), Statistical Subdivisions (SSD) and Statistical Divisions (SD).

12/02/2009 Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 5678.0)

The survey provides details of venture capital and later stage private equity activity from venture capital and later stage private equity fund managers. The information includes in broad terms fund commitments and drawdowns by source of funds, assets and liabilities of the venture capital and later stage private equity funds, financing flows between the funds and their investors and investee companies and the stage and industry characteristics of venture capital deals undertaken during the latest financial year. Includes percentage of investment value by location of investee at the state and territory level.

29/01/2009 Schools, Australia, Preliminary, 2008 (cat. no. 4220.0)

This release contains a summary of state, territory and national data for the broad categories of schools, students and staff at the 2008 school census date of the 1st August. More detailed data, including derived participation and progression measures, will be published in the Final publication, due out in March 2009, or in the detailed Data Cubes and spreadsheets subsequently published on the ABS website.

21/01/2009 Information Paper: Changes to the Dissemination of Retail Trade Statistics, January 2009 (8501.0.55.005)

This information paper describes changes that will be made to Retail Trade statistics following the reinstatement of a 'full' sample each month. The paper briefly sets out:

- the background to the changes
- the timing of the changes
- the content of the revised monthly publication including the data that will be available on the ABS website
- the availability of detailed industry by state monthly data for the July to October 2008 reference months
- the impact of the changes on seasonal adjustment.

15/01/2009 Environmental Views and Behaviours, 2007-2008 (cat. no. 4626.0.55.001)

These spreadsheets contain data on people's views and practices on environmental issues, from the Environmental Views and Behaviour Survey conducted throughout Australia as part of the 2007-08 Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS). Topics in the survey include; environmental concerns, personal energy and water use, waste collection and disposal and environmental involvement.

These first three spreadsheets contain data on:

- Whether people are concerned about any environmental problems, by state
- Whether people think the natural environment is improving/declining/same, by state
- Involvement in environmental activities, by state

Further spreadsheets planned for release mid-year will allow data items to be cross-referenced with a range of demographic information.

13/01/2009 Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Tasmania, Sep 2008 (cat. no. 8635.6.55.001)

Contains the results from the on-going quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation. Data provide information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities. Data include number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month; by type of establishment and by star grading. This is a useful reference for policy makers and industry monitors and advisers. Information is presented for each state/territory and Australia and by Tourism Regions as defined by the respective state/territory tourism commissions.

18/12/2008 Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 8146.0)

Presents statistics on household use of information technology. State and territory level statistics include type of broadband internet connection and use of the internet by location of access.

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BOOKMARKS

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About this Release

Tasmanian Statistical News is a quarterly electronic newsletter providing information about new developments including projects, surveys, outposted ABS officers, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.